(c) The Drugs Control Department, Delhi convened a meeting in which representatives of manufacturers of psychotropic drugs, representatives of Chemists Associations and ACP (Narcotic) participated. It was impressed upon the traders that the supply of drugs be maintained as far as possible.

Black marketing of medicine from AIIMS

567. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that medicines intended for use of "Government supply" were reportedly being sold in the open market by AIIMS's employees along with certain workers of chemist shops located outside hospital premises;

(b) if so, the preventive measures Government have taken till date to stop pilferage of Government supply as well as open sale of certain substandard/fake medicines to patients by chemist shops; and

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by Government into all such matters and, if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In the last few years, AIIMS have been receiving complaints about the availability of medicines meant for supply at AIIMS in places outside the AIIMS. The institute has been taking up the matter with various agencies including CBI and Delhi Police. As reported in a news item appeared in Hindustan Times on January 20,2005, Delhi Police intimated the institute about the arrest of three employees of AIIMS on 19.1.2005 *viz.* (1) Shri Praveen Kumar, Senior Pharmacist, (2) Shri Radhey Shyam, Hospital Attendant Gr. I and (3) Shri Ram Krishan, Masalchee/Bearer Gr. ILin a criminal case FIR No. 29/05 dated 18.1.2005 u/s 409/411/420/120BlPC. Another official Shri Ratan Singh, Sanitary Attendant Gr. II was also arrested on 29.1.2005 in a criminal case FIR No. 29/05 dated 18.1.2005 u/s 409/411/420/120B/ 201 IPC by the Police. Based on the information received from Delhi Police, all these officials have been kept under suspension.

The AIIMS administration, however, have taken various steps to improve the system of procurement and issue of medicines for hospital stores to the patients and other user areas with a view to checking misuse of medicines. Some of the important steps taken are as follows:

- Guidelines for receipt and issue of medicines as suggested by ACB, New Delhi are followed and medicines are issued to user areas mentioning batch number.
- Inventory management and reconciliation of stock are made at regular intervals.
- Procedure for receipt of material in hospital stores and issue of medicines have been rationalized.
- An inspection committee has been constituted under the control of faculty incharge of concerned stores. All items received by the concerned storekeeper will be inspected by the inspection committee within 48 hours of receipt of item.
- All the complaints regarding availability and non-availability of medicines are enquired into by the senior officers as and when required.
- It is the continuous endeavour of the Government for better management of stores and strengthening of inventory control systems.

Media Leaders Summit on HIV/AIDS

568. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Media Leaders Summit on HIV/AIDS recently held in New Delhi took note of the fact that from one reported case in 1986, HIV positive cases in India have already crossed five million mark;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an alarming rise in HIV positive cases despite a concerted effort and campaigns not only by Government agencies but also by NGOs; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Summit and being adopted by Government to make a dent in the rising trend in HIV/AIDS cases?